

LECTOTYPIFICATION OF *CLITORIA AUSTRALIS* (FABACEAE)

Bentham (1864) published an Australian flora and in it, newly described was *Clitoria australis* Benth. Currently, the legume treatment of a modern *Flora of Australia* is nearly completed. The objective of this note is to meet a request to provide documentation on the lectotypification of Bentham's species name.

*Clitoria australis* is an Northern Australian endemic subshrub or suffrutescent herb with both 3- and 1-foliolate leaves, small (2.5–3 cm) white flowers, a short, silky pubescent calyx tube (6–8 mm long) with lobes (9–11 mm long) conspicuously longer than the tube, and fruits constricted between the seeds. Fantz (1979) assigned this species to *Clitoria* section *Tanystyloba* Fantz. Other species in this section include *C. cordiformis* Fantz (Thailand), *C. hanceana* Hemsl. (China, Kampuchea, Thailand, Vietnam), *C. javanica* Miq. (Thailand), *C. linearis* Gagnep. (Laos), and *C. macrophylla* Wall. ex Benth. (Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam).

Bentham (1864) cited one collection of *C. australis* saying "N. Australia. Arnhem S. Bay, R. Brown (Herb. R. Brown). I have been unable to adopt Brown's MS name [= *C. alba*] which is now preoccupied in the genus [= *C. alba* Don, 1832]." I have examined five specimens (E:2 sheets, F:herb. Small, K, NY) of this species collected by R. Brown from Arnhem Bay. They are regarded as original material.

Stafleu and Cowan (1979) reported that Robert Brown's Herbarium came into possession of J.J. Bennett in 1858, and was later split upon the latter's death in 1876, with collections going to BM, K and E. Bentham examined these specimens after his revision (Bentham 1858) of *Clitoria* that lacked *C. australis*, but prior to his publication in 1864. Presumably, the specimens were examined when they were part of Bennett's Herbarium. No specimen has been located at BM.

Two specimens (E-108<sup>1</sup>, K) bear a printed label citing "R. Brown, Iter Australiense, 1802-1805. [Presented by direction of J.J. Bennett, 1876]." Label data included "Arnhem S. Bay," a collection number of 4237, and "*Clitoria alba*" R. Br. (Robert Brown's name) with "*C. australis*, Benth." written on the label below Brown's name. The remaining three specimens (E-109, F, NY) lacked the Bennett label, Brown's species name and collection number, but were distributed with Bentham's species name. The E-109 specimen had the same locality and date, whereas the F specimen bore

<sup>1</sup>Specimens from E lacked accession numbers. Cited are the accession numbers found below 60/74 [loan number] in the center of an inked circular stamp with "Royal Botanical Gardens, Edinburgh" around the margin.

only "Australia, 1802-5" and the NY specimen bore only "Australia, Arnheim S. Bay."

In selecting a lectotype, the F and NY were excluded immediately from consideration, as they lacked the Bennett label, Brown's manuscript name *C. alba*, and complete label data. In addition, these two specimens appear somewhat distinct in appearance to me from the other three specimens, in the age of the flowers, color of vegetative parts, and in overall stature. It seems probable to me that this pair of specimens were collected on different dates, are not true duplicate collections of the specimens (*Brown 4237*) deposited at E and K, and possibly not even examined by Bentham.

Of the remaining three specimens, the K specimen was designated as the lectotype. It is a good representative specimen of the species, agrees closely with the diagnosis by Bentham, bears Brown's name and the specific locality name discussed in the protologue, and was annotated by Bentham. Bentham (1864) did not cite Brown's collection number, but Bentham (1858) has used this practice previously when he described other species of *Clitoria* (e.g. *C. flagellaris*, *C. nana*). Location of these types revealed a collector's number not cited by Bentham in the protologue. The F and NY specimens are probable original material, but are not regarded by me as duplicates of the lectotype collection; therefore, they were annotated as lectoparatypes instead of isoelectotypes. In conclusion, the citation for this species is as follows:

***Clitoria australis*** Benth., *Fl. Austral.* 2:242. 1864. [*Clitoria alba* R. Brown, *nom. in sched.*, non Don (1832)]. TYPE: AUSTRALIA. NORTHERN TERRITORY: Arnheim S. Bay, 1802–1805, *R. Brown 4237* (LECTOTYPE, designated here: K-J.J. Bennett herb.; ISOLECTOTYPES: E-108<sup>1</sup> & 109). AUSTRALIA. I.C., *R. Brown s.n.* (LECTOPARATYPES: F-Hb. Small, NY).

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#### REFERENCES

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